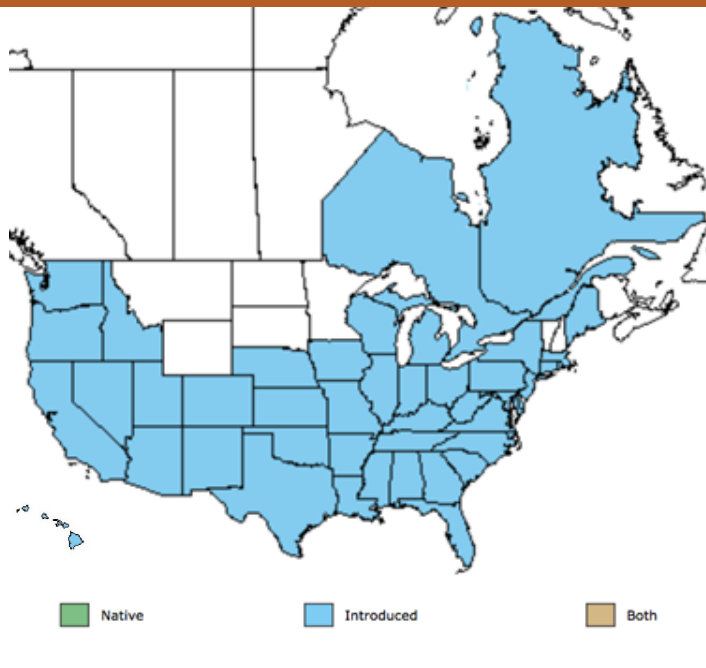


USACE Invasive Plant Species Best Management Practices

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) - Simaroubaceae (Quassia)



Habitat & Life History

Invades disturbed urban areas – Native to China – Tree – FACU & UPL – Aggressive root system – Prolific seed producer

Integrated Management Strategy Selections

Prevention

Chemical

Mechanical

Cultural

PREVENTION

- Maintain a healthy native plant community to prevent establishment of invaders
- Educate homeowners & advocate for native alternatives

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Herbicides—aminopyralid, glyphosate, imazapyr, triclopyr
- Use-pattern—foliar spray, cut/paint, basal oil, injection, hack & squirt
- *Refer to product label for specific instructions on rate & use-pattern

MECHANICAL CONTROL

- Hand pull/dig roots, girdle, cut or land-clear; cut prior to seeding & remove/dispose propagules off-site
- Be mindful of potential removal-erosion issues; use phased-removal approach or artificial or natural armoring
- Apply in conjunction with chemical control & native plant establishment

CULTURAL CONTROL

- Prescribed burning can kill seeds
- Develop thick cover of competitive vegetation to reduce germination

MANAGEMENT SEQUENCING

- Timing of control methods—best option is to apply cut/paint mechanical/chemical treatment in June to early July prior to seeding; a 6-week post-treatment monitoring period is recommended before ground disturbance or grubbing to confirm herbicide efficacy; stem-injections where biomass removal not possible
- Monitoring—periodically monitor treated areas & repeat control methods if necessary to eradicate
- Niche-filling/Restoration—establish dense ground cover of competitive native trees, shrubs, & grasses

COMMENTS

- Tree of Heaven is a dioecious, prolific seed producer, & readily re-sprout from its roots
- Proper identification is paramount, as it is often confused with native sumacs & hickories



Updated—2021

Contributors, data sources, documentation @ apcrp.el.erdc.dren.mil